

GRAPESVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

Vol. III No. 6

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

JANUARY 1989

Two win Coonradt Memorial awards

By Gerry L. Galvan

Two outstanding executives heading Visitacion Valley agencies were recipients of the first in a series of awards by Saint James Presbyterian Church on Leland Avenue.

Julie Kavanagh, executive director of Visitacion Valley Community Center on Raymond Avenue received a cash award which she turned over to the Center.

The awards served as token of the church's appreciation

Renee Strong, recreational director of Herz Playground on Visitacion Avenue was presented with toys for her playground kids.

The awards served as a token of the church's appreciation for the women's efforts and contributions towards a campaign to make Visitacion Valley more peaceful and progressive.

The awards to Kavanagh and Strong were presented by Mrs. Ruth Arvanites, church session member. recitation of a brief history on Coonradt was delivered by Mrs. Esther Siebel, church lay leader, who chairs the memorial fund committee.

The awards signaled the kickoff in the campaign for the Mark Coonradt Memorial Fund, which honors their late resident pastor from 1971 to 1984. Coonradt died in New York on January 13, 1987.

The awards and



Renee Strong (3rd from left) with Debbie Quion, Evangeline Tolentino and Ma Angela Tolentino

Photo by Esther Robbins Siebel

remembrance were symbolic of Coonradt's fight for peace and progress.

Members of the Mark Coonradt Memorial Fund

Committee are: Esther Siebel, chair, Charlotte Cook, Ruth Arvanites, Racquel Esplana, George Siebel, Violeta Galvan, and interim pastor James Eakin.

Rev. Coonradt remembered

The following is the full text of Mrs. Arvanites' recollection of the late pastor:

"Rev. Coonradt was a creative and humorous writer. At the same time he was a caring and compassionate pastor whose energetic efforts were known, as they still are remembered by many among us who rubbed elbows with him. He was a humanitarian who always played the part of a peacemaker.

"Writer, pastor, humanitarian, peacemaker, compassionate, caring, humorous, creative and energetic are but a few words that are best equated with the Rev. Richard Mark Wallace Coonradt.

"'Laughter is the best medicine. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Count your blessings one by one and you will be surprised at what the Lord has done for you. Ask, and it will be given unto you.' These are but a few verses Mark instilled in his congregation.

Rev. Coonradt was born in Hoosick, New York on Aug. 1, 1934. He earned his master's degree in theology at Princeton University seminary and taught religion in Manhattan before coming to San Francisco. He wrote two plays that



were produced Off-Broadway. One was about Robert Burns called 'Great Scott', and the other about Plato and Moses titled, 'Burning Bushes.'

"Here's to name but a few of his many accomplishments, to wit: Pastor of St. James for 16 years from 1971 to 1984; co.nmissioner with the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, 1980-1981.

"Mark Coonradt was included in the list of San Francisco's Most Distinguished Ten of 1975.

"Former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein was quoted as saying that Mark Coonradt was a man of great compassion, totally dedicated to helping others.

"He died on Jan. 13, 1987 at the age of 52 in New York City after a long illness."

New visitor center, trails

New McLaren Park plan ready for review

The draft of the McLaren Park Master Plan is now on public view. McLaren Park, located south of I-280 and west of Candlestick Point, is San Francisco's second largest park.

The Master Plan presents opportunities to capitalize on the park's tremendous potential for meeting both regional and neighborhood recreational needs. Its 318 acres offer sweeping views of the city and San Francisco Bay, a large reservoir, a viewing tower, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, children's play areas and extensive hiking trails.

Master Plan proposed improvements include development of a Park Visitor Center, expansion of the existing Amphitheater, trail

development, restroom improvements, enhancement of the Upper Reservoir, and repair and enhancement of picnic areas.

This plan invites continued public involvement throughout the implementation process. The Master Plan will be reviewed by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission in February 1989.

For information call Deborah Learner, Park Planner at 558-3182.

In the Vine

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Editorial

The GRAPEVINE has much to be thankful for this past year. We received the Annual Media Award from SAFE.

The loyal GRAPEVINE staff is constant, committed and reliable.

We have been fortunate to have the services of two of San Francisco's outstanding journalists: Carol Farron helped us standardize our format and encouraged us toward excellence, and John Moses, city editor of the San Francisco Independent, devotes his rare off-hours to produce the paper.

Without the San Francisco Foundation grant, inkind services and encouragement from the Community Center, and the generosity of Schlage Lock Co. for the use of their computers and space, the GRAPEVINE could not exist.

Thank you to all the above and to our loyal readers and advertisers.

Best wishes for a happy, prosperous New Year.

An inside view Mayor's Drug Task Force

By Julie Kavanagh

In August, 1988, Mayor Agnos appointed a Task Force to follow up on the ideas and issues developed at the June 2, 1988 Symposium on Substance Abuse. The Symposium addressed the problems caused by and around the epidemic of drug use, especially "crack".

Initially, the Task Force was given a year to complete the task of designing a demonstration program that could later be applied to other neighborhoods, although initially the program would begin in one or two target areas. Subsequently, the Mayor informed the Task

Force that their recommendations had to be completed by the end of December. The last meeting of the Task Force was Wednesday, December 21, 1988, and their Christmas gift to the Mayor was a completed plan of recommendations for the three initial target areas (Alice Griffith Housing Project, Plaza West Housing and the Oceanview neighborhood) that is intended for further use in the other San Francisco neighborhoods.

The underlying principles agreed to by the Task Force that served as the foundation of the plan adopted were: 1) Any successful efforts to combat the drug problem is dependent on the maximum participation and empowerment of the area's residents. 2) Drug prevention, intervention and treatment services must be coupled with public safety efforts to provide a comprehensive attack on the drug problem. 3) A multi-service center program should be established at the target sites. Support services should be provided on-site and tailored to meet the specific needs of the respective communities. 4) Service providers engaged in the multi-service network should receive uniform, culturally sensitive training to create a cohesive approach in addressing the drug problem.

Specific recommendations were developed in the areas of "Community Building", "Public Safety", "Public Housing", "Employment", "Health Service", "Education", "Recreation" and "Social Services". Three of the four standing committees (Neighborhood Involvement, Alternatives for Youth, Treatment and Prevention) are now disbanded. The Fourth standing committee, Resource Development, will continue to meet to try to raise the money needed to implement the recommendations.

The Task Force worked very hard and very fast for 4 months, and including the many people who joined us at the subcommittee level, involved over 100 persons with good, constructive ideas. My hope is that all this good work will result in the fruition of neighborhoods where the residents can once again gain control of their environment.

CENTERVOICE

By Julie Kavanagh

The Holiday season is winding to a close, and the new year is here. As always, the Holidays present mixed blessings; happy events and sad occurrences. We regret the sad and rejoice at the happy, and remember that those who have never felt sadness cannot recognize joy, so we accept all that life has to offer us in order to be able to appreciate feelings of all kinds.

Some happy notes: Christmas toys were distributed to children at our Center and to children at Sunnydale and at Herz Playground thanks to Syufy Corporation, Drexel Burnham, United Way, Mervyns, the Police Athletic League and the Fire Department. Anita Pavels and Herman Jones were special Santas, as well as Karen Riordan and Keith Matthews.

Thanks to the VFW dance band for entertaining the Seniors from VVCC and other Senior Centers at a lovely Christmas Dance here at the Center. Program Directors Pat Crocker and Laeh Weidenhofer and Gail Ardrey went all out to make sure that Christmas was merry for all.

The John King Senior Center had their Christmas Luncheon on the 16th, and the GRAPEVINE get together was the same day.

On the 20th, the children and seniors from VVCC got together and made a Christmas Carol Video, which

was lots of fun. The kids got to go to the Circus on the 22nd, which was also the day of the Seniors' Christmas Luncheon. The 23rd was the day of Christmas parties for kids from Sunnydale, Herz, VVCC and the Community College Center.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gen Sechini who is ill and also with LaVaughn King who is recovering from a terrible accident, as well as all other neighbors who are suffering from illness, injury and want.

We deplore the fact that Food Banks, the Government Surplus Food and other programs to feed the hungry are running short of food, especially at this time of year. We regret the difficulties that individuals and businesses are having with skyrocketing rents and the lack of leases in our neighborhood that are forcing them to leave the area. Their loss is our loss!

We hope that the new year brings relief, comfort and health and a better life for all.

From our readers

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the kind gentleman who returned my belongings that he found in his yard on Dec 29th. I would also like to thank the

person who returned my Mila's Video card to the video store. The pictures mean a lot to me and could not be replaced.

"Mugging Victim"

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When railroad and industry arrived

By Matthew Brady

Seventy-one years ago there was great excitement in Visitacion Valley as Southern Pacific Railroad Company neared completion of its vast \$2,300,000 railroad complex along the Bayshore. Citizens of the Valley looked forward to full employment and affordable housing.

In 1917 J. W. Wright & Co. at 228 Montgomery Street was advertising: "Where S.P. shops are building - secure a business location now. Pay after the war if you want to. Directly facing the great new shops of the Shorthorn Pacific R. R. Co., now building at Visitacion Valley, where thousands of high-priced skilled artisans will be employed, you can purchase today a business location for \$700, which we are able to prove to any reasonable thinking man should within a very short period be worth thousands. \$70 cash secures today a car-line business location."

As early as 1840, pioneers had realized the Valley's vast potential as a



Visitacion Valley in 1910 where Railroad Ave. crosses Third St.

site for future business development. One of these was Ohio-born merchant Jacob Primer Leese, who sailed into the Bay aboard the barque Don Quixote with a six-piece orchestra and the lumber to build a mansion on

the southwest corner of Clay Street and Grant Avenue. In 1841 Leese purchased 8,880 acres in Visitacion Valley.

Then in the 1850's a young French venture capitalist named Francis L. A. Pioche bought thousands of additional Valley acres. He also introduced locals to vintage champagne and frogs' legs a la poulette.

But it was not until 1904 that an important San Francisco company decided to build a plant down in the Valley - and this was the California Gas and Electric Corporation, which we now know as P.G. & E. It had made a bid to furnish power to the United Railroad Company, which had switched from cable and horse energy to electricity to propel its passenger cars over city streets. But California Gas had a bit of power problem itself. Its generating station at Fourth and Market streets could not assure an uninterrupted supply of electricity to United Railroad as it did not have adequate steam-operated generators. There was the risk of power failures.

Desirous of having such an important account for its struggling business, California Gas made a revolutionary proposal to United: it would build a stand-by station in Visitacion Valley.

Even now the plan can be considered extraordinary.

from collection of Greg Gaar

Instead of an engine fueled by steam there would be large gas engines to drive the electric generators. Gas engines were more economical than steam, they could be started from standstill to full power in a few minutes - important for emergency service - and they did not require constant fueling.

...a revolutionary proposal - build a stand-by station in Visitacion Valley

The first massive gas engines went into operation in April 1906. Alas for the Valley, the results were not up to California Gas's expectations. The technology of gas engines was still at too early a stage. The gas plant was dismantled in 1916.

While the gas plant was being built Charles A. Louis also saw a future in the Valley. He opened the Reis Tract there and sold lots at \$125 each, a dollar down and a dollar a week.

Southern Pacific started to survey the Bayshore in 1909 to build the most extensive industrial plant then known in San Francisco, covering 260 acres of Valley land. When

continued to page 11



Cathy Kline
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A young Acheiver
Dogan gets national honor

The Board of Advisors of Outstanding Americans has named Derrick Keith Dogan to the 1988 roster of Outstanding Young Men of America.

Derrick Keith Dogan, 27, moved to VisValley five years ago after graduating from Lewis University in Joliet, Illinois.

Derrick and his wife, Janet, live in Bldg. B, Geneva Towers with their 7 year old twin boys, Deon and Derrick, Jr.

Derrick spent a summer with his aunt in Visitacion Valley during his college years and decided that he wanted to return when he graduated. Janet moved to San Francisco three years before Derrick; although they met and fell in love as students in Illinois.

Employment was no problem for this goal-oriented young man. He worked at Macy's during his summer visit, and was rehired as a Computer Input Operator at the Macy's warehouse facility on Paul Avenue.



Derrick has collected awards all his life. In college he was elected "Mr. Lewis" a highly coveted honor named after his university. This award recognized his contributions as president of his fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma and president of the Panhellenic Council as well as the Sweetheart Coordinator in 1981. He won the Kappa Alpha Kappa Trophy 1982, and was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in 1983.

Depression

To my lovely wife - Janet Marie Dogan. Twin boys: Deon P. Dogan and Derrick K. Dogan, Jr. Parents: Annie R. & Willie B. Dogan.

It is a common problem in American today, It affects everyone at different times anyway. It's a loss of pleasure and enjoyment of life, It may even cause you to leave your wife. It causes you to complain, sometimes to be rude,

Changes in your behavior and attitude. It's symptoms are severe, lasting and strange, They may be experienced in a broad range. Do yourself a favor, take a trip, Seek professional help, don't let your life slip. Talk things over with an understanding friend, Stand tall, be strong, fight it to the END.

Derrick Keith Dogan

Currently, the Gents, a community service and social club, occupies a good deal of Derrick's free time. This Bay Area-wide club raises money for programs for children and elderly people; takes kids to Great America and puts on a big Halloween celebration. The club has 12 members of all ages.

Janet works in Walnut Creek for General Electric Credit Corporation.

Derrick, Jr. and Deon attend Alvarado Elementary School in Noe Valley and the VisValley Family School after-school program operating by the community center.

When asked what his goals are for the future, Derrick quickly responds, "I hope to be selected for Macy's Management Training Program. I'd also like to continue writing poetry. My wife and boys are very important to me, and I want to be there for them." Born and raised in Chicago, Derrick's mother, father, two brothers and two sisters are still in Illinois. "I will go back this spring for my youngest brother's high school graduation," says Derrick. "I'm really looking forward to that." The GRAPEVINE congratulations this exemplary young man, husband and father for his commitment to his family and community.

Welcome to the neighborhood!



Consuelo Bodracco, owner of the new Cancun Taquerie on Leland at Rutland with Joel Ferreire and Miguel Ramirez. Consuelo specializes in El Salvadoran style burritos, tacos, quesedillas. The GRAPEVINE production staff survived a night of paste-up and typing by eating Consuelo's excellent burritos.

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Calendar

Jan 7 & 21: Junior Alive Club meets at Leland Ave School yard 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Jan 18: Visitacion Valley Middle School SAC/BAC meeting 10 a.m.

Jan 19: Visitacion Valley Elementary School SSC/BAC meeting 10 a.m.

JAN 27 - FEB 28: Camp Fire Candy Sale.

Every Monday: Visitacion Valley Community Center Mural class 1 p.m. for adults. Call 239-1069 for information.

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PARENT LINK

Peer Pressure: Fight it, give in to it, or handle it.

"Jennifer's mother is letting her go!"

"But all the kids are wearing them, even Katie!"

"Michael gets twice the allowance that I do!"

Peer pressure, Elementary and middle years are the time when children begin to be influenced more and more by friends and classmates. That youngster who used to think Mom and Dad could do or say no wrong is now hearing other voices, voices that say which are the "cool" sneakers to wear, the "must" movies to see, the "Awesome" kids to be with.

It's a scary time for parents who worry that their son or daughter - who will only wear a certain brand of jeans because of what his schoolmates say - may be easily influenced later

when someone pressures him to try cigarettes, alcohol or drugs.

The first thing to know is that peer pressure isn't all bad. Learning to sort through different opinions to decide what's right for himself is an important part of a child's healthy development. Also, peers serve as good role models, helping each other learn to socialize successfully and function well in and out of school.

To a certain extent, we must let our child be like the others; being the oddball is no fun, as long as it involves harmless issues like clothes, toys or age-appropriate movies. Parents need to sense when to let a child be part of the group.

But how to give him the wherewithal to resist dangerous peer pressure? Parents can do three things: **BOLSTER, MONITOR, LISTEN.**

You can help your child by

BOLSTERING his self-esteem at home so he will have confidence away from home to decide that someone else is wrong. Praise him when he makes a good point; don't label him "useless" or "thoughtless;" discuss and disagree without causing him to feel like a "dumb kid." Let him know you love him and value his opinion.

Encourage him to invite friends over after school or for dinner

By all means, **MONITOR** you child's peers and friends. You can rest easier (or be alerted to problems) if you observe your child interacting with "unfamiliar" others who are influencing him. Encourage him to invite friends over after school or for dinner. Let him have a birthday or Halloween party. If your worried about a certain friend, talk to your child

about it, but don't come down too harshly or you will put him on the defensive.

If you **LISTEN** carefully to your child you could pick up clues that he is wrestling with a problem, perhaps being subjected to unwanted pressure or confused because his friends are doing things that he feels might be wrong. Resist the temptation to be too critical, judgmental or shrill. Create a climate where your child feels comfortable airing his concerns. Establish yourself as an ally or sounding board and together find ways to help him deal with the pressure.

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

Teach your child to quietly leave situations where he is uncomfortable. To handle an invitation he's unsure about, teach him to say, "I'll let you know" to buy time. Let him use you as an excuse. "I'll have to ask first" or "I'm not allowed" can give a graceful way out.

Most importantly is for you to be available to him and to be a good listener.

Library adds 300 PBS videos

More than 300 Public Broadcasting System video cassettes were added to the public library's already impressive video collection over the past month. Among classic PBS titles joining the collection are I Claudius, Jewel in the Crown, Life on Earth, The Shakespeare Plays, and Heart of the Dragon, said Roberto Esteves, director of SFPL's Video and Hearing impaired Services Department.

Best of all the newly-acquired cassettes - purchased through a grant from the MacArthur Foundation - are available for free loan from the library for up to two days, says Esteves, "as are any of the 3,000 video titles held by our department."

The library's entire collection, including the newest in the family, are detailed in two volumes available for purchase from Special Media Services for \$10, plus 50 cents handling. Send orders and check to cover to SFPL Publications Fund, Special Media Services, Main Library, Civic Center, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The two-volume set includes all video-tapes added to the San Francisco Public Library since it began collection in 1975. The second volume, newly published, includes a subject order listing of all non-fiction video tapes, including theater and performing arts, sports, American history, travelogues, and language learning.

A special feature of the library's video collection is the large number of feature films close-captioned for the hearing impaired, says Esteves. "With the use of a special close captioned decoder available for loan from the library, people who have difficulty hearing television programs can borrow videotapes in which English captions magically appear. Borrowers with standard VHS equipment can view these same movies without the captions."

The second volume also has a section listing all the library's videotapes on sign language.



Trish St. John teaches Jerry Tuft, president of Schlage Lock Co. the *Bingo Waltz* at Schlage's employee Christmas party. Trish is a member of the Pioneer Squares, a square dance troupe led by sisters, Arkie Mangelsdorf and Margaret Davila. The Pioneer Squares performed last May at the VisValley parade and street fair.

News from our schools

Who says parents won't come to "Back to School Night" programs? Visitation Valley Middle School was inundated with 300 participants at their recent program. The chorus and Spirit Team, under the direction of Madeline Robinson and Gaycia Robinson, provided the entertainment.

Mayor Agnos appointed Shirley Dimapilis, Pro Social/Human Relations resource teacher at Alvarado

Elementary School, to the newly created Self Esteem Task Force. Shirley is also a member of the Human Rights Commission's Advisory Committee on Minority, Women, and Local Businesses.

An Adopt-A-School partnership has been launched between Potrero Hill Middle School and Bechtel Group, Inc. Their first project is an after-school tutorial program at Bechtel.

Christmas Thoughts

Christmas Thoughts was delivered to the Saint James Church congregation during the December 18, 1988 service.

By Gerry L. Galvan

The Philippines is a highly civilized society where Christmas is celebrated with the greatest intensity. Even during the darkest times of the country's history, Christmas is one of the biggest events of the year.

After Ferdinand Magellan stumbled onto the islands in March 1521, every Christian, male or female, young or old, rich or poor, literate or not, has looked forward to Christmas.

I look back to the days when as a young boy raised as a Roman Catholic I joined hordes of the faithful in seeing to it that the three week period from December 16 to January 6 was calendared as Christmastime.

Exposure for 90 years or more to Western ways has not completely affected the Filipino way of looking at Christmas. Christmas celebration in the Philippines has not been solely laid on the Madison Avenue concept of hard sell. It is a time for worship, fellowship, family reunion, healing of emotional and spiritual wounds, and above all, rapprochement with one's creator.

The Filipino influenced by almost four centuries of Spanish rule has followed closely the tradition of observing Christmas the orthodox Christian way. Greater emphasis is laid on the spiritual rather than the material side of life.

Violet and I recall every now and then our separate and distinct experiences during the three years of Japanese occupation of our country, December 8, 1941 to January 9, 1945, when threats of Japanese bullets, zamorais and bayonets were no impediment to the Filipino determination to celebrate the most important birthday mankind has ever known.

How did Filipinos celebrate Christmas during the most infamous years under Ferdinand Marcos? My family, Violet, Ludwig and Leonard, my sons, and I had been living for more than three years in the United States when the "Super Thief" imposed martial law on September 21, 1973. From what I learned, the oppressive government of Marcos could not reverse the age-long tradition of celebrating Christmas in the Philippines.

The people worshipped to their hearts' content and feasted on what little they could get their

By Anne Kaartunen

Happenings: Public hearing, January 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the VVCC, Gym regarding San Francisco Public Works "H2O" pipe-line project for Leland, Peabody, Rutland and Tucker Streets. This project starts in February and we hope this meeting will clarify questions about inconveniences and safety.

More than 300 signatures collected on a petition for stop signs on Visitacion, Leland, Campbell & Cora Streets. Let's hope DPW responds.

A large number of Businesses changing hands or leaving the Valley in 1989. A need to be concerned? Why is it happening? A few reasons: unfair and bloated rents, inadequate leases and run-down property. A real

"scroogy" disservice to residents of Visitacion Valley.

Two SAFE clubs have been started on Talbert Street and action has been taken on problems with Valley Super parking lot maintenance; a new fence was put up and lights will be repaired. The SAFE Club on Leland & Cora will meet in January (flyer will be out) to discuss "making the park safe." A number of incidents are occurring at Vis Valley Playground, more serious than before. The "Promised" lights are long overdue!!

WINNERS...
Holiday Drawing sponsored by The GRAPEVINE & Visitacion Valley Merchants Association.
Richard Rymues - Watch, Vs Vly Pharmacy

M. de Hertel - Mini Vac,
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Barbara Villasenor - T-Shirt & book,
Community Boards
Antoinette Longa - 2 sandwiches,
Mama's & Papa's Deli
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Speaking of Health



New facts about smoking

By Jackie Wasserman

With the New Year beginning, people often resolve to make positive changes in their lives. Getting more exercise, losing weight, stopping smoking are among the more common resolutions.

Smoking has been in the forefront of the media more and more in the last few years. As studies confirm that smoking is related to cancer of the lung, larynx, esophagus, oral cavity, pancreas, kidney and bladder, attention has been drawn by the media to the public, in a campaign to stop smoking. Despite that, one in three Americans smoke cigarettes and tobacco remains a very profitable product.

hands on.

The Filipinos set aside December 25 as a date for gift giving and sharing. It is their custom to pay special respect to Godparents and older relatives. They receive gifts from their Godparents and relatives when they are young,

With many habits, it takes time and forethought to make a change. It is known that nicotine in tobacco is addictive and that makes it difficult to break the habit. The benefits of stopping smoking obviously greatly outweigh the continuation of it. Each person has to examine for himself the incentives needed to quit. Some of the following facts may provide that extra push.

A recent Government report reveals the effects of cigarette smoke on nonsmokers. Children whose parents smoke tend to suffer from more colds, as well as bronchitis, pneumonia, and ear infections. It is also thought that a child's growth and lung development may be stunted from breathing in a parent's smoke. Nonsmokers who live with smokers are

30% more likely to develop lung cancer. These are scary facts - especially with regard to those people closest to us.

The following guidelines provided by the U.S. Public Health Dept. provide information on what steps to take to stop smoking: 1) Recognize that a drug dependence on nicotine exists. It is not a weak will that makes quitting difficult.. 2) Quitting is a long-term process. Cravings for tobacco may occur years after stopping. 3) Attending a clinic or cessation group can be very helpful. Cancer Information Service has a toll-free hotline: 1-800-4-CANCER for information.

Quitting smoking is not easy, but the benefits far outweigh continuing, especially when we realize how those we love may be effected everyday.

and then accompanied by family members they visit and become the giftgivers when they grow up.

Filipino celebrants go shopping for gifts, wrap them in beautiful trimmings. They send and receive Christmas cards; carols are sung; Christmas

trees are lit and venerated. Some offices and homes adorn their trees with snow and Santa Claus. I do not pretend to understand the logic or illogic in how people in the torrid regions can conjure the idea of snow on a 120 degree Christmas day.

Popular Pharmacist retires after 26 years

By Pat Christensen

Imagine Leland Avenue in the 60s and early 70s. Schlage Lock Company employed 2600 people; Southern Pacific 3000; Crown Cork & Seal 2000, and S&W Fine Foods another big group (exact figures not available).

"Leland Avenue was jammed every noontime by workers looking for lunch, doing their shopping and strolling," recalls Yvonne Creighton of Leland Avenue Pharmacy. "We had a hard time serving everyone, we had four clerks on the floor including Jack and me."

"Many of those workers lived in the area too," continues Jack Creighton, who for 14 years was president of the Visitation Valley Merchants Association. "In those days people didn't commute to jobs. They mostly lived where they worked."

Jack remembers also that back then the Merchants Association had clout at City Hall. With about 40 active members, the VisValley

Merchants attended their monthly meetings - mostly, as Jack Creighton says, "... because we had a h--- of a lot of fun and we fought and argued for a couple of hours before settling down to business."

Jack and Yvonne Creighton bought Leland Avenue Pharmacy in July 1962. As Jack says, "I was young and

**Leland Ave. was
jammed every noontime
with workers looking for
lunch**

feisty then. Henry Schindel was the president of the association, and we accomplished a lot.

"In 1966, we saved the community center. They didn't receive a grant of money or something and were going to have to rent the space. The Merchants Association decided that the Community Center should be saved, and we raised \$15,000 with pancake



Jack and Yvonne Creighton behind their Pharmacy's counter

breakfasts, coin buckets in each store, dances and rummage sales.

"Another thing we did in those days was to demand and keep two beat cops. SFPD was a smaller department then too, but we wrote letters, talked to the mayor, and met with the supervisors until we got our way.

"Our one voice, the Merchants Association, gave Visitation Valley clout. We produced results. We got city services here," recalls Jack.

Jack Creighton served 14 years as president of the VVMA from 1971-1984. During that time, he started an interest bearing savings account in existence today; acquired the federal tax exemption under which the association operates, and, according to Jack, "... had interesting programs and lively dinner meetings. We got together and really talked to one another. We motivated each other to talk over problems. We also had a motto, 'Shop with Your Neighbor.'"

Jack and Yvonne both recall the days, not too long ago, when there were 15 active physicians at the medical office building on Leland Avenue. They called themselves the Visitation Valley Medical Group. They left in 1978.

"Also in the Valley," recalls Yvonne, "were the fraternal organizations. I remember when the Eagles had a big hall behind the Bank of America, where the parking lot is now. They were always doing something for the community."

For the 26-1/2 years as a VisValley merchant and 14 years as president of VVMA, for the years of serving and caring about and for the customers, the GRAPEVINE salutes Yvonne and Jack Creighton who were here during the time of VisValley's greatest growth and change. They helped create the glory years, and we hope that those who succeed them care as much as they did about about our community.

Best wishes to Yvonne and Jack on their retirement. We expect to them back here occasionally, and we hope that the years ahead of them are as rewarding as the years they devoted to VisValley.

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Vista job opportunity

Share will be hiring two VISTA Outreach/Warehouse Volunteers for full-year contracts beginning February 1989 at approximately \$400 stipend/month for fulltime work. The job will be divided into two parts: 1) practical warehouse work - running warehouse equipment, receiving and sending trucks, supervising fruit and vegetable packing and inventorying, building maintenance, and greeting the public; and 2) community outreach-liaison to the volunteer work teams at distribution sites. trouble

shooting and problem solving, being part of a team approach to expanding SHARE. Qualifications include: community work experience, communications skills, people skills, physical strength and stamina for warehouse work, willingness to travel and work with people of varied backgrounds, availability on weekends and evenings. Call or write the SHARE office now for information and application if you're interested (415-467-2506).

Dying child's wish

David Williams, a 6 year old boy with terminal cancer in England has one last request. He wants to set a record for the Guinness Book of World Records. The mark he wants to make on this world is to be the one person to receive the most post cards ever! Post cards require a 36 cent Air Mail stamp. David has only 6

months to live according to his doctors. Send David a Post Card with your greetings, prayers and support to:

David Williams
c/o Miss Williams
St. Martins Infant
School
Luton, Bedfordshire,
England

CELEBRATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A Celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held Saturday January 14, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Martin Luther King Swimming Pool, 3rd Street and Carroll Avenue. The program honors Dr. King and aspires to revitalize the joy and memory of a man who strove for a world where all people could enjoy fulfillment of the promises of our founding fathers.

There will be

demonstrations by the Merionettes Synchronized Swim Team, lifeguards, and children participating in swim programs. Guest speaker is Barbara Lynn from San Francisco SAFE. Greg Buffin will act as master of ceremonies.

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department is sponsoring the event. For more information, call 822-5707.



Community center executive director, Julie Kavanagh receives Mark Coonradt Memorial Award from Ruth Arvanites during a recent Saint James Presbyterian Church service. For rest of the story, see page 1.

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PARENTS NIGHT OUT

**A CHILDCARE MINISTRY OF
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PLACE: Valley Baptist Church
305 Raymond at Delta
Visitation Valley
San Francisco

TIME: Friday evenings 6p.m. to 10p.m.

AGES: 3 to 10 years of age

COST: \$1 per child -per evening

TO REGISTER: contact Valley Baptist Church, 467-6055 by the Wednesday previous, to register your child for Friday evening

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Ciao Pinin

Editor's note: Pinin is a Visitacion Valley resident who prefers to remain anonymous. His stories are the reminiscences of his life which led him to VisValley and a successful career as an artist. We found his anecdotes charming and hope that our readers will too.

Introduction

This is the story of Pinin, a boy born in Italy in the second year of this century.

He grew up in a world of mixed personalities, forever challenged between good and evil. Stubborn and unyielding, he had a mind of his own, refusing to be swayed. engulfed by an avalanche of books on all subjects, he became, at an early age, an avid reader.

Enthralled by the stories of Horatio Alger, the exploits of Buffalo Bill, the marvelous adventures of Don Quixote, he could not wait to duplicate their feats.

At the age of 17, he left his native country, Piedmont in northern Italy, with only his shirt on his back. too young to be issued a passport, he nevertheless traveled by his wits, discovering country after country until eventually he circled the globe.

His adventures were later described and chronicled during a lengthy correspondence with a dear and inquisitive friend who took it upon herself to bleed out of him any event

or incident that happened to him from the cradle to babbling senility.

The following stories are, therefore, fragments extracted from letters to Valerie.

The Exhibitionist

Having lived beyond the allotted Biblical time of three score and ten, with nothing to look forward to but loneliness, deterioration and oblivion, I am tempted to pause and retrace my steps to the days when I was man, then boy, then child.

I am told, and I agree, that I am an exhibitionist and an opportunist. I always strove to find my niche in life, to be seen, to be heard and appreciated. to turn misfortune into opportunity has always been my key to survival.

I grew up in Turin. They called me Pinin. My mother had a store in Piazza Nizza, a poor and squalid neighborhood.

Of my earlier recollections is a Sunday, when my years could still be counted on the fingers of one hand. My family went to church at the far end of the piazza. I was left alone, under the care of the angels, in my innocent sleep.

After Mass, the whole family walked across the piazza toward home. Suddenly, they noticed a huge crowd gathered in front of the store window.

"God! Something has happened to Pinin. Let's hurry!"

They rushed, panting with fear in their hearts and hope in their speech, reassuring one another.

"Look, Ma," said my brother. "They are laughing."

They reached the perimeter of the crowd and began elbowing their way through until they found themselves in the front row. Then they saw, but could not believe what they saw.

There I was in the center of the window among dolls, tin soldiers and stuffed elephants doing all kinds of antics to attract the crowd's attention - unashamed and naked as could be.

Grapevine Puzzler

SOLUTION NEXT ISSUE

CREATED BY ANNE KAARTUNEN

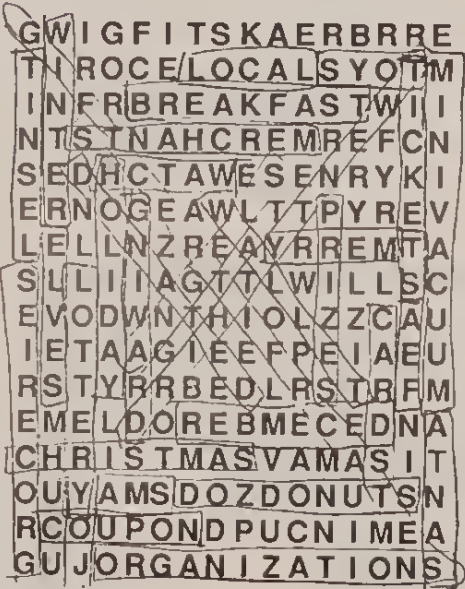
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Opening a window



The Rose Resnick Center will offer instruction in Braille to seeing persons interested in either transcribing articles or books from print into Braille, in corresponding with blind friends or relatives and for the fun of understanding this window to understanding Braille. For more information call the center at 441-1980.

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What's doing in the park

January 7:

6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Trout Fishing at Lake Merced, #1 Harding Road, Skyline Blvd. at Great Highway, call 753-1101 for more info. Fee.

9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Rose Pruning, S. F. Rose Society and Golden Gate Rose Society demonstrate correct pruning of roses including climbers and miniatures, Golden Gate Park Rose Garden between Kennedy and Park Presidio Drives, near Fulton St.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Randall Museum features a live animal room with petting corral, a working seismograph where you can see the earth move and other exhibits, 199 Museum Way, off Roosevelt on Corona Hts. Free.

January 13:

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Is today your lucky day? Bring your lucky horseshoes to the Horseshoe Pitching Court, located off Conservatory Drive East in Golden Gate Park. Free.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Come visit the black cats (panthers) at the San Francisco Zoo on Friday the thirteenth, Sloat Blvd. at Pacific Ocean. Fee

Sign-up for Youth Basketball League

Players can register at their neighborhood playgrounds for the following teams:

Midget	11 years and under
Junior	13 years and under
Intermediate	15 years and under
Senior	17 years and under

Eligibility determined by age of player as of April 1, 1989.

The season ends with a city-wide tournament played at Kezar Pavilion. For information call 558-4056.

Reforestation Plan

San Franciscans have been longtime supporters of parks and open space. Voters recently passed park bond Proposition D in 1987 and Proposition E in 1988 which extended the City's Open Space Acquisition and Park Renovation Program of 1974. The park bond funds this project.

Modeled after the Golden Gate Park Reforestation Program which is in its 9th year, emphasis for neighborhood reforestation will be placed on correction of hazardous situations, site preparations and new tree plantings.

Work at Crocker Amazon and McLaren Park neighborhoods began in mid-December.

Pruning, stump and tree removal and chipping are often an unavoidably noise part of the project.

For more information about this project, call 558-4655.

Railroad

continued from page 3

completed the yards contained over 25 miles of track, a 17 stall roundhouse, and a large power plant. All freight trains coming into San Francisco, whether by the Coast Line or over the Dumbarton Drawbridge, where broken up here and their cargoes delivered to local consignees or transferred to other destinations.

Most important to the Valley were the huge repair shops where freight cars and steam engines were overhauled. These employed 600 of the 1,000 locals at work in the huge complex.

All this made Visitacion Valley one of the important industrial and railroad centers in California.

The big marshaling yards also spawned the City's first quasi-public housing development. George C. Holberton and Associated developed Garden City, "the model industrial workers suburb" for the families of SP men, on a 6-acre tract in Visitacion Valley. The streets followed the natural contours of the land: city planners specified only gentle curves and easy turns so that the houses would be in groups of two, three, and five and placed to get the most sun. Financing was done through public subscription of stocks and bonds, which placed the cost of the homes within the salary of the working man.

By 1917 the Valley had a handsome face.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

SHELTER

The city's emergency housing service provides hotel vouchers to people who line up at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday across the street from the Department of Social Services, 150 Otis Street. Families and pregnant women go to AFDC offices 170 Otis Street, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. **431-2253 or 557-6415**

A list of 17 shelters and 15 meal services can be obtained at Department of Social Services offices, 150 Otis Street.

FOOD

The St. Anthony Dinning Room, 45 Jones Street, serves lunch every day. Also provides showers, laundry, haircuts and other service. **552-3838 ext. 142.**

Martin De Porres kitchen, 225 Potrero Street, serves breakfast or lunch, or both, every day. **552-0240.**

Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, 330 Ellis Street, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday through Friday and breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday. **441-6501**

INTOXICATED PEOPLE

Mobile Assistance Program dispatches teams 24 hours a day to examine and transport severely intoxicated people to a detoxification center. The MAP teams notify paramedics in case of medical emergencies. **431-7400.**

HEALTH PROBLEMS

The city's Tom Waddell Clinic, 50 Ivy Street, provides medical attention to many of the homeless of the Civic Center area. **554-2950**
In case of serious injury or illness, call 911 as in all other medical emergencies.



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CONTACT: ALE PELE or JOHN SUISALA

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